

HODDER DARGAUD PRESENTS



Asterix

AND THE Chieftain's Shield



- UDERZO -

VERCINGETORIX, DEFEATED AT THE SIEGE OF ALESIA, THROWS HIS ARMS AT CAESAR'S FEET... AND OFFICIALLY, ALL GAUL IS CONQUERED...

OUCH!

CLANG!

AFTER THIS MELANCHOLY CEREMONY, CAESAR SETS OFF IN SEARCH OF FRESH CONQUESTS...

... AND THE ARMS OF THE ARVERNIAN CHIEFTAIN LIE WHERE THEY HAVE FALLEN, AND NO ONE DARES TOUCH THEM...

... UNTIL SUNSET, WHEN A ROMAN ARCHER SUCUMB'S TO TEMPTATION AND MAKES OFF WITH A MAGNIFICENT SHIELD...

HEY, HOW ABOUT A GAME OF RUBBER ET NIGER?

... WHICH HE LOSES AT ONCE IN A GAME OF CHANCE.

DIEM PERDIDI!

YOU CAN QUOTE ME ON THAT TOO!

THE WINNER, A LEGIONARY OUT WITHOUT A PASS, FINDS THE PRESENT TENSE WHEN TRYING TO SNEAK INTO CAMP, HE IS PICKED UP BY A CENTURION WITH AN ACUTE NOSE...

HEY, YOU THERE! QUO VADIS, LADDIE?

... AND IN AN IMPERATIVE MOOD, WHO CONFISCATES THE SHIELD IN RETURN FOR HIS SILENCE.

O TEMPORA! O MORES!

THE CENTURION, HAVING SPENT ALL HIS PAY, SWOPS THE PRECIOUS SHIELD FOR AN AMPHORA OF WINE AND CHARCOAL MERCHANTS...

... AND THE SHOPKEEPER SUBSEQUENTLY AGREES TO HAND IT OVER TO A GAULISH WARRIOR WHO HAS ESCAPED FROM ALESIA...

... AND IS TRYING TO DROWN HIS BORROWS IN DRINK...

WELL, IF IT GIVES YOU ANY SATISFACTION...

HE!

SO ALL GAUL IS OCCUPIED. ALL? NO! ONE LITTLE GAULISH VILLAGE IS STILL HOLDING OUT AGAINST THE INVADERS. A LITTLE VILLAGE WE KNOW VERY WELL, WHERE MORALE IS HIGH, AND ANY EXCUSE WILL DO TO HOLD A BANQUET WITH LOTS TO EAT AND DRINK. AS IT HAPPENS, THE LAST SUCH BANQUET HAS HAD SOME UNFORTUNATE CONSEQUENCES!!!

OOOOOW!
OOOOOOOH!
OH! OH! OH!

IS SOMEONE
SLAUGHTERING
A WILD BOAR?

NO, IT'S OUR
BARD SINGING
A LULLABY!

MAKE WAY FOR THE
DRUID!
CHIEF VITALSTATISTX
IS ILL!



IT'S THE SAME OLD STORY: THE DAY AFTER HE'S BEEN EATING AND DRINKING AND MAKING MERRY WITH THOSE BARBARIANS HE FEELS AS IF THE SKY HAD FALLEN ON HIS HEAD!

IT ISN'T MY
HEAD THAT
HURTS!

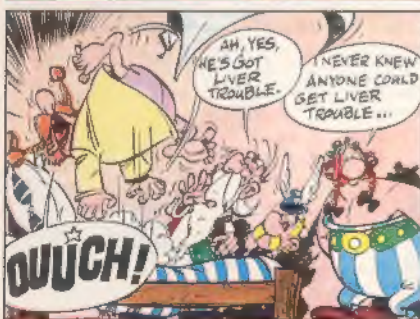


DOES IT HURT
THERE, THEN?



AH, YES,
HE'S GOT
LIVER
TROUBLE.

I NEVER KNEW
ANYONE COULD
GET LIVER
TROUBLE...



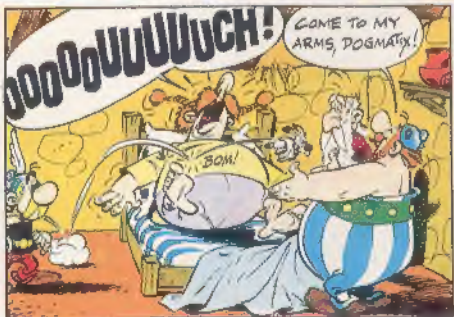
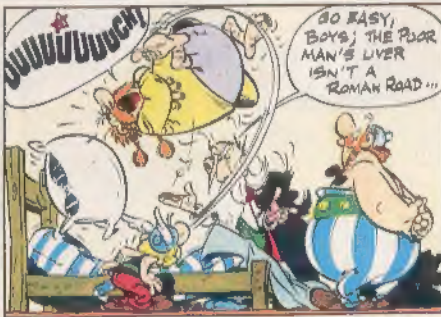
I WISH
I WAS
DEAD!

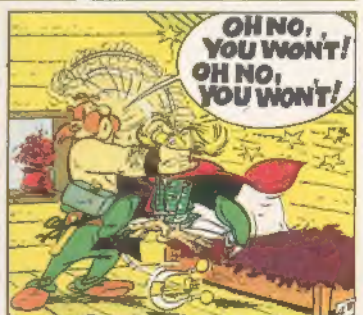
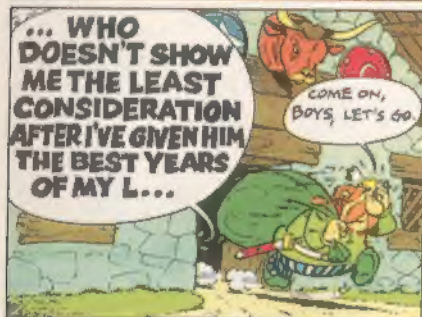
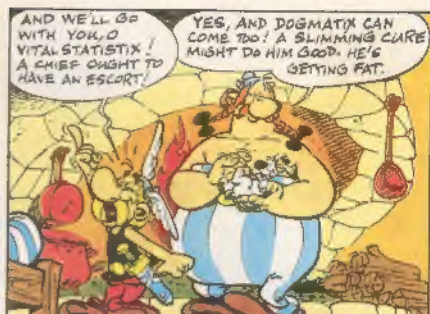
YOUR WIFE IMPEDIMENTA
IS RIGHT, O CHIEF, I'M
AFRAID YOU ATE AND DRANK
RATHER TOO MUCH AT OUR
LAST BANQUET.

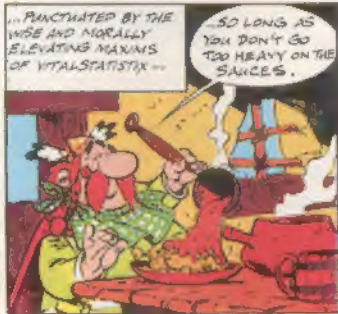
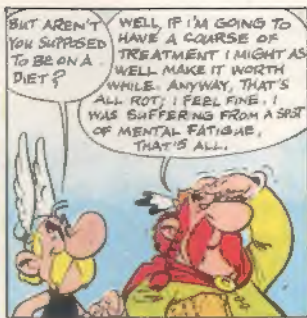


I NEVER KNEW ANYONE
COULD EAT TOO MUCH.









AND SO OUR FRIENDS ENTER THE TOWN OF AQUAE CALDAE, FAMOUS AMONG BOTH GAULS AND ROMANS FOR ITS HOT SPRINGS AND MINERAL WATERS.

OOOOOHH!
I WISH I WAS DEAD!

DIAGNOSTIX THE DRUID?
THAT WAY, TELL HIM ABOUT
YOUR CONDITION! WHATEVER
SPRINGS TO MIND - I'VE GOT
TO MIND THE SPRINGS.

SOON
AFTERWARDS...

OUR DRUID GETAFIX
HAS SENT US. IT'S
ABOUT YOUR COURSE
OF TREATMENT.

AH, EXCELLENT!
AND WHICH OF YOU IS
THE INVALID?

FOR THE
ANSWER,
PRESS
HERE...

NO!

EXCELLENT, VERY
GOOD! I WILL
EXAMINE THE
PATIENT.

**NOOOOOO!
DON'T TOUCH
ME! DON'T
LOOK AT ME!
IT HURTS!**

HMM... A VERY
SEVERE CASE,
DIET NO?

AND WHAT
ABOUT YOU?

I'M FINE.

YOUR FAT FRIEND
HERE OBVIOUSLY
OVEREATS; I DOUBT
IF HIS LIVER IS IN A
HEALTHY STATE.

HE ISN'T FAT AND
HIS LIVER IS IN A
VERY GOOD STATE!

HE IS FAT, AND
WE'LL SOON SEE
ABOUT THE STATE
OF HIS LIVER!

WHO ARE YOU
TALKING ABOUT?

OOOOOOHH!

DRUID, QUICK!
OUR CHIEF HAS
FAINTED!

???

VITALSTATISTIX STARTS HIS TREATMENT: HE DRINKS THE WATER OF THE SPONGS AT REGULAR INTERVALS...



... USES THE SOPHISTICATED MODERN SHOWER SYSTEM...



... AND STICKS TO A STRICT DIET BASED ON BOILED VEGETABLES.



AND THIS IS WHERE THE TROUBLE BEGINS, SINCE ASTERIX AND OBELIX, AS THE CHIEF'S ESCORT, HAVE PERMISSION TO SHARE HIS TABLE AT MEAL TIMES...



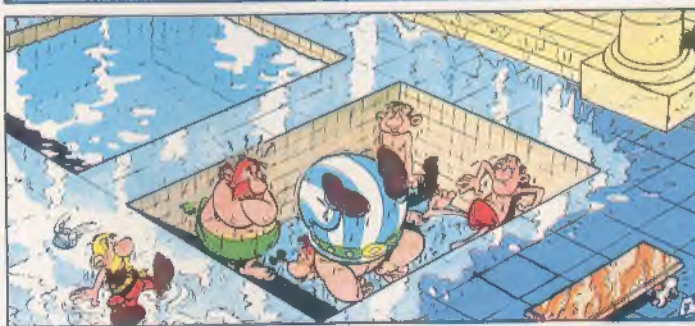
SOME OF THE OTHER PATIENTS BEGIN TO CRACK UP...

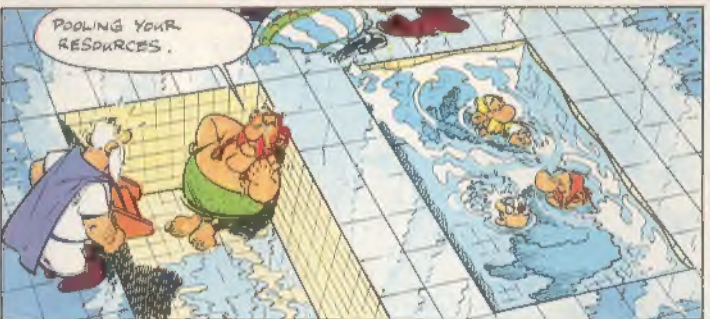
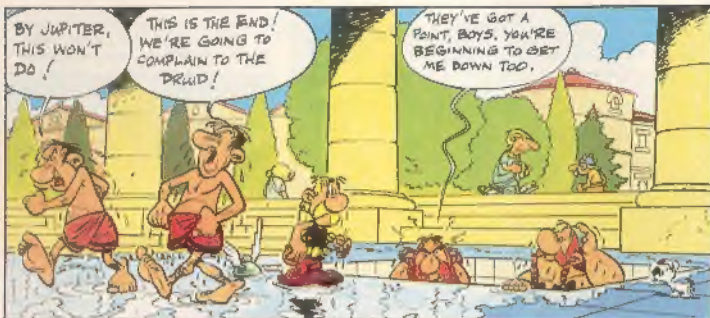


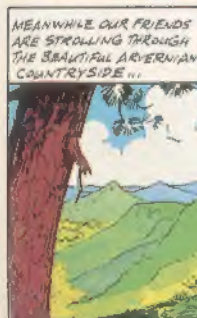
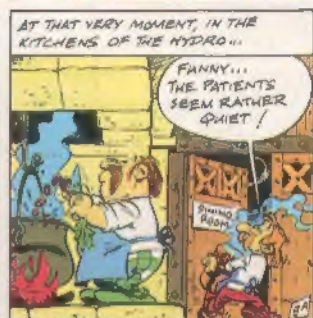
AND SERIOUS INCIDENTS ARE ONLY JUST AVERTED.

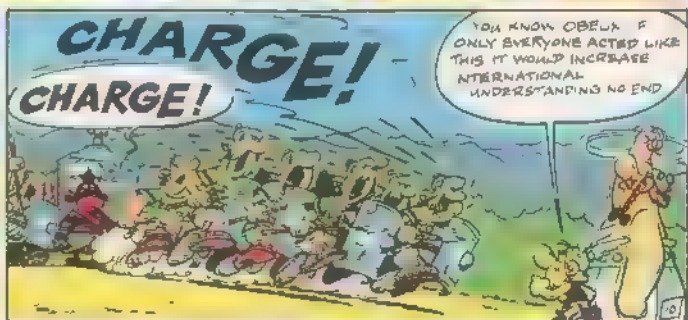
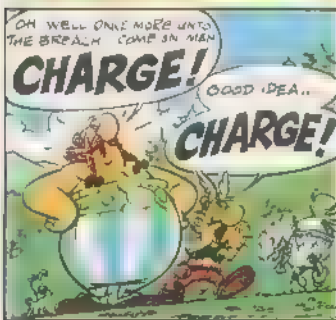
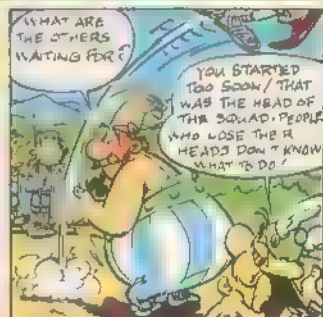
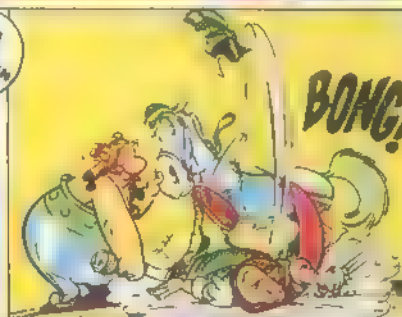
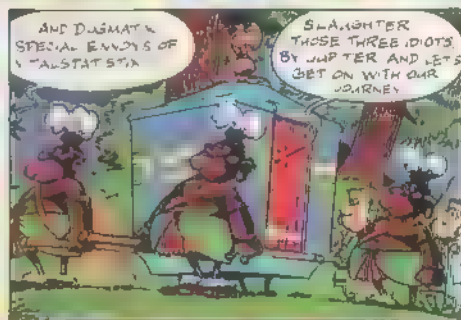
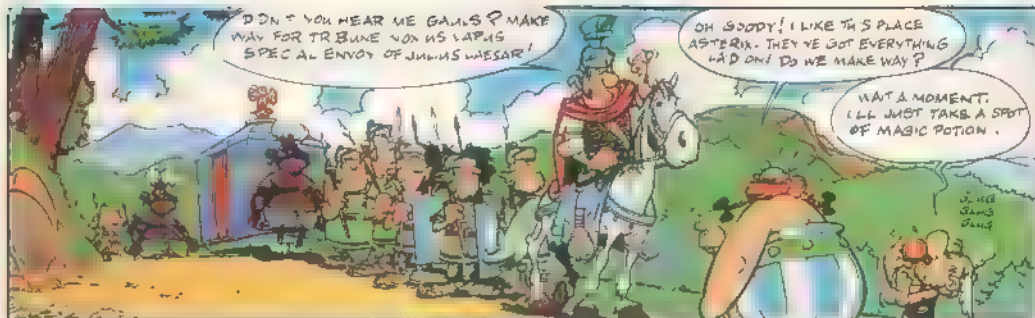


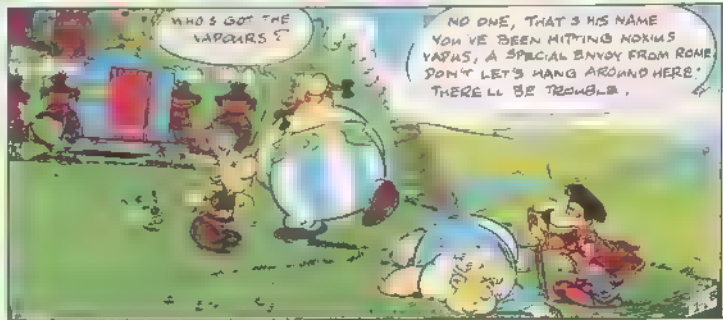
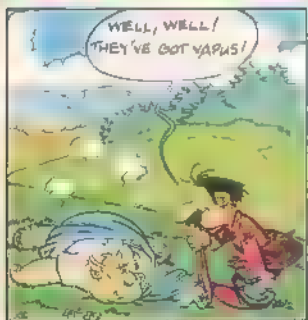
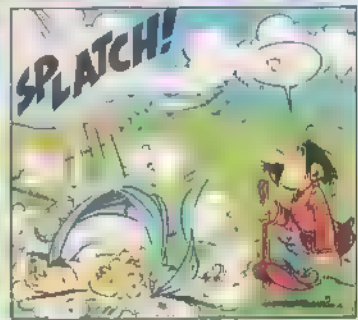
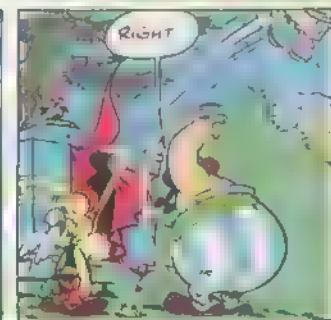
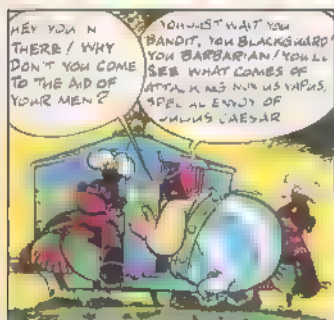
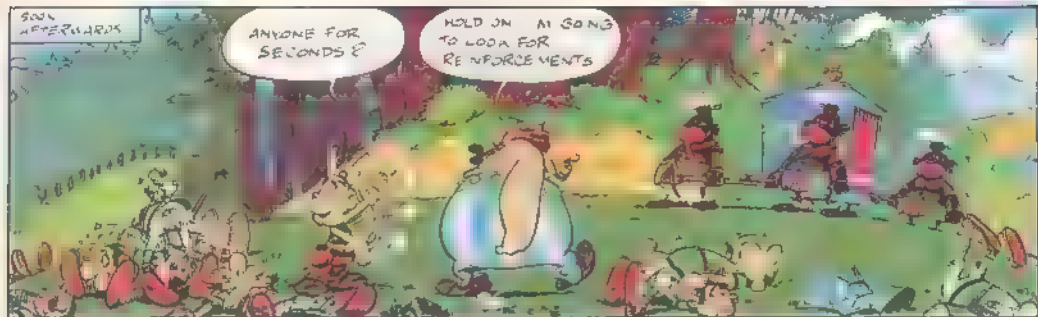
THE TREATMENT INCLUDES BATHING IN WATER FROM THE HOT SPRINGS.

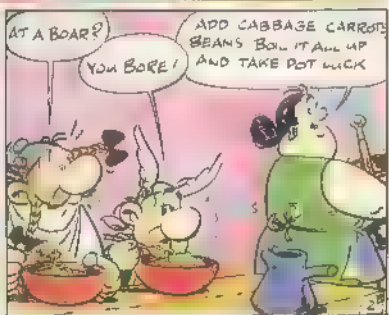
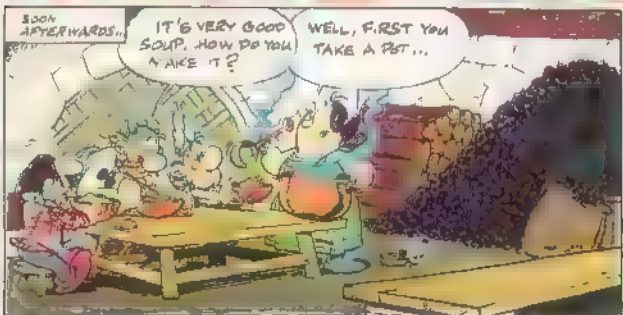
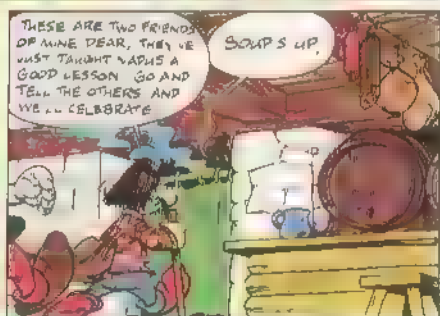
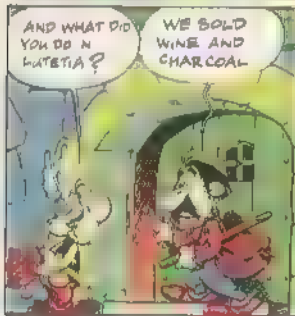


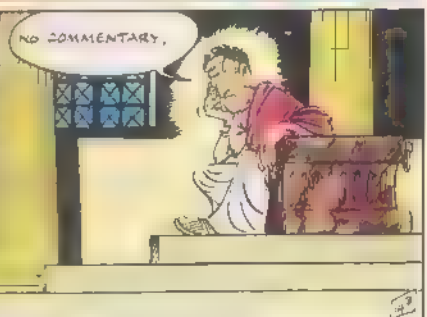
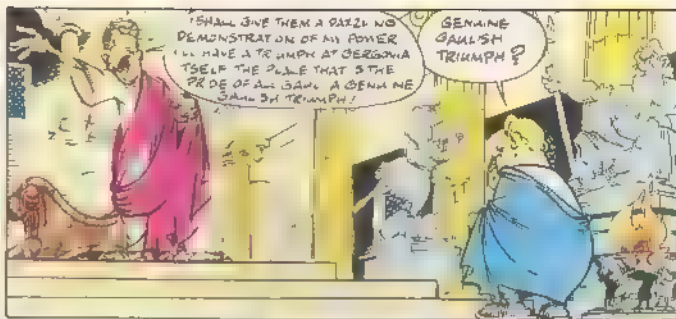


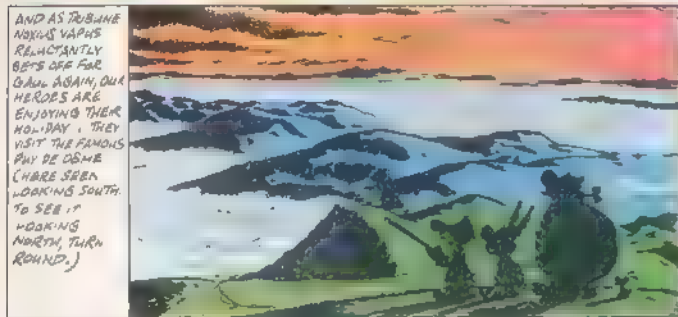
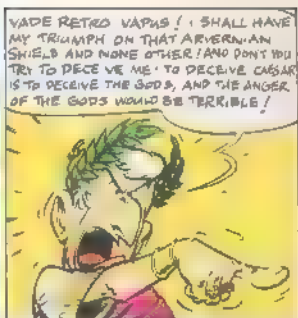
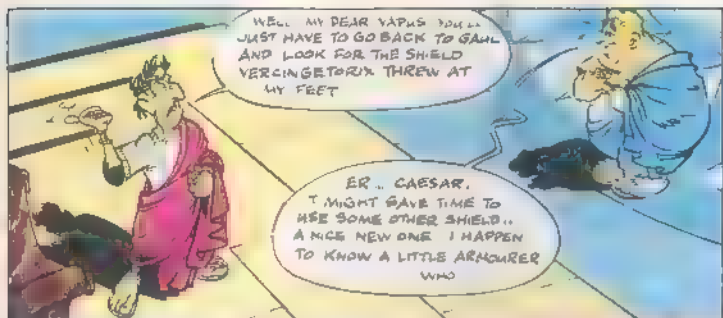


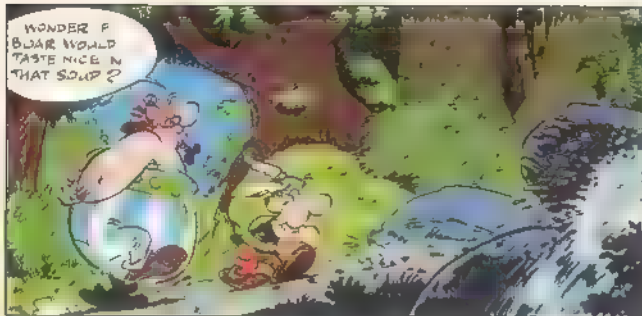




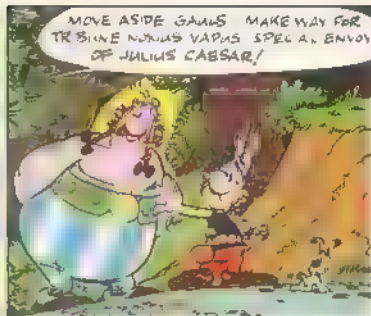




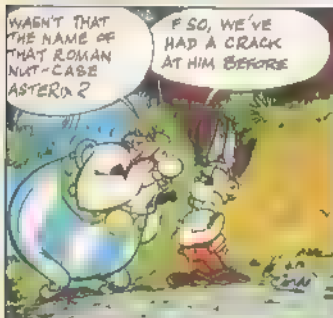




WONDER F
BOAR WOULD
TASTE NICE N
THAT SOUP?



MOVE ASIDE GAULS MAKE WAY FOR
TRIBE NEIGH VAPUS SPECIAL ENVOY
OF JULIUS CAESAR!



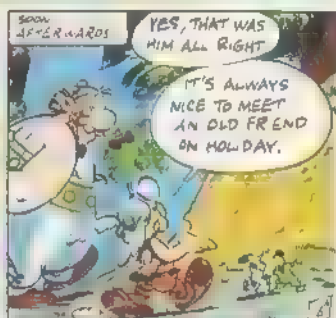
WASN'T THAT
THE NAME OF
THAT ROMAN
NUT-CASE
ASTERIX?

F SO, WE'VE
HAD A CRACK
AT HIM BEFORE



WANT TO
GO AND SEE

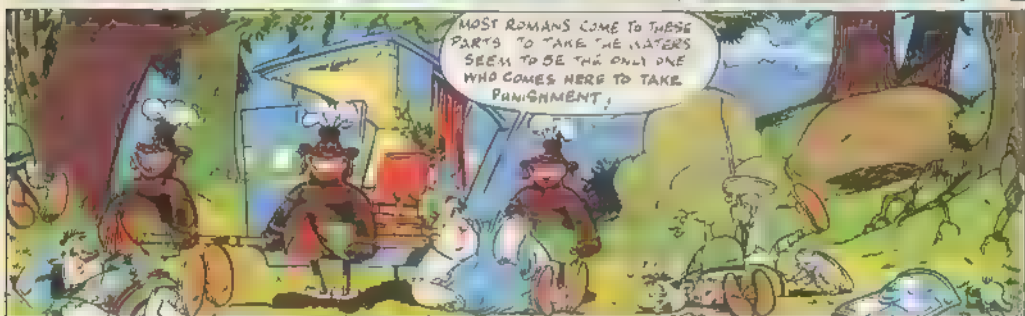
WHY NOT?
AFTER ALL WE'LL
ON HOLIDAY



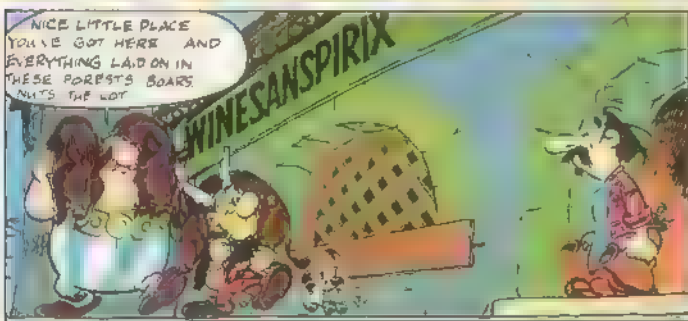
SOON
AFTERWARDS

YES, THAT WAS
HIM ALL RIGHT

IT'S ALWAYS
NICE TO MEET
AN OLD FRIEND
ON HOLIDAY.

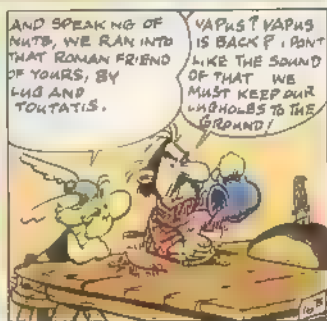


MOST ROMANS COME TO THESE
PARTS TO TAKE THE WATERS
SEEM TO BE THE ONLY ONE
WHO COMES HERE TO TAKE
PUNISHMENT!



NICE LITTLE PLACE
YOU'VE GOT HERE AND
EVERYTHING LADON IN
THESE FORESTS BOARS
NUTS THE LOT

WINE SANSPIRIX



AND SPEAKING OF
NUTS, WE RAN INTO
THAT ROMAN FRIEND
OF YOURS, BY
LUG AND
TOUTATIS.

VAPUS? VAPUS
IS BACK F I DON'T
LIKE THE SOUND
OF THAT WE
MUST KEEP OUR
EYEBOLDS TO THE
GROUND!

VAPUS IS NOTORIOUS IN THESE PARTS. CAESAR SENDS HIM TO KEEP US DOWN IF HE'S BALK WE'RE IN FOR A BAD TIME!

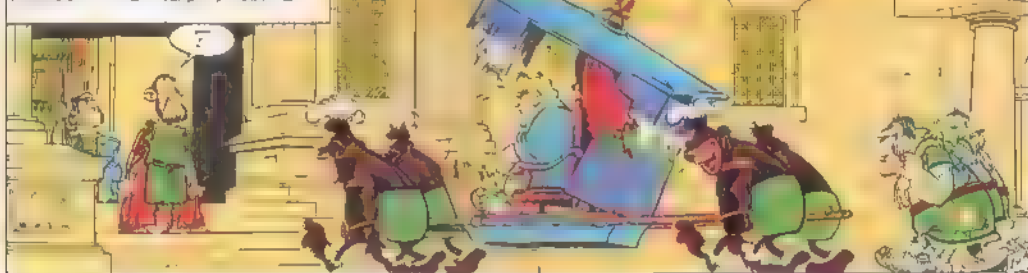


OH DON'T LET'S BOTHER ABOUT A LITTLE THING LIKE THAT

IT'S A REAL PLEASURE TO COOK FOR A MAN WHO ENJOYS HIS FOOD!

OH SAY

MEANWHILE TRIBUNE NOX HIS VAPUS ARRIVES AT THE PREFECT'S PALACE



AVE NOX HIS VAPUS DON'T EXPECT YOU BACK SO SOON ER DID YOU HAVE A GOOD JOURNEY?



SUMMON ALL THE COMMANDING OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL GARRISONS AT ONCE ALL LEAVE IS CANCELLED



HEAR THAT? JOIN UP, THEY SAID IT'S A MAN I'VE THEN SAID



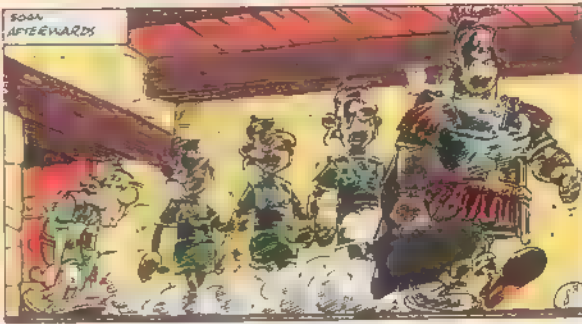
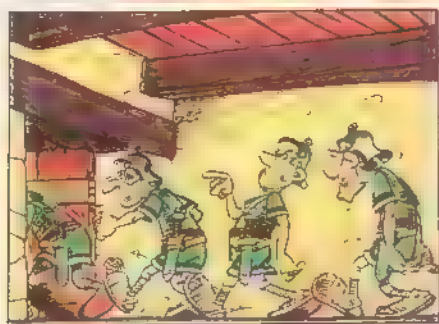
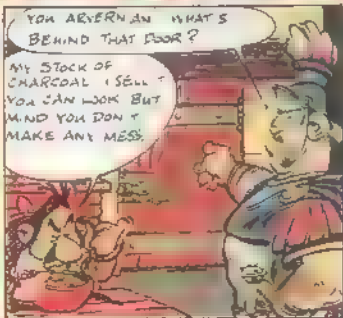
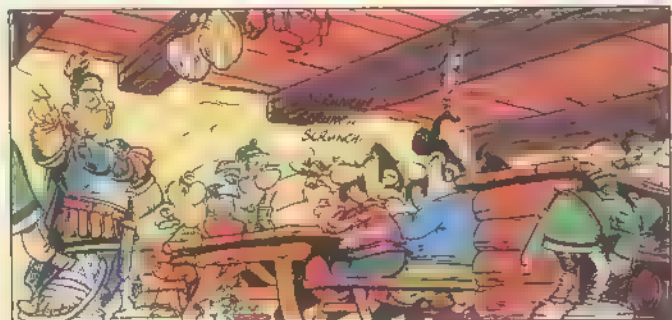
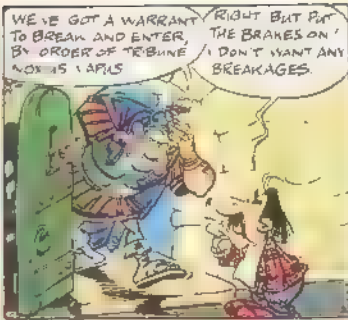
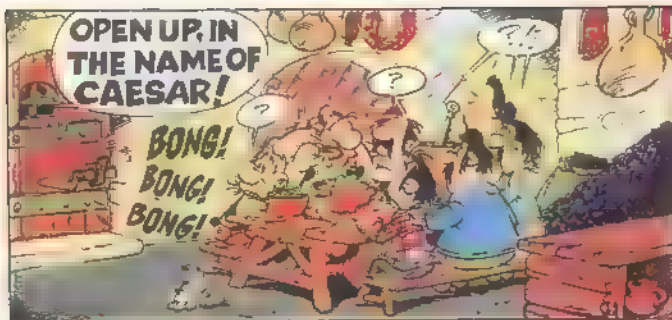
SOME AFTERWARDS...

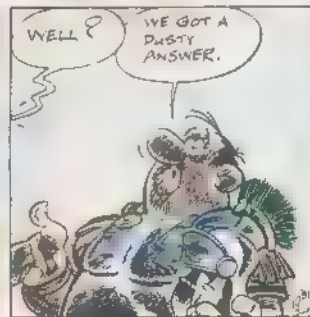
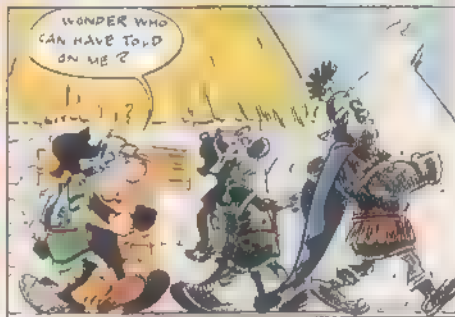
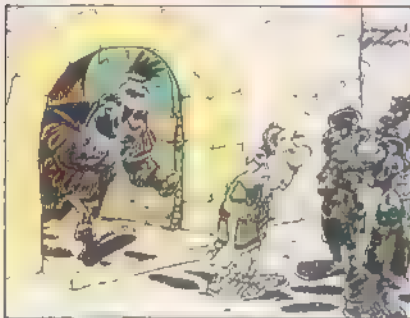
WELL THOSE ARE YOUR ORDERS FND THE MEEHAN'S SHELD SO THAT CAESAR CAN HOLD HIS TRIUMPH IN GERGOVIA!

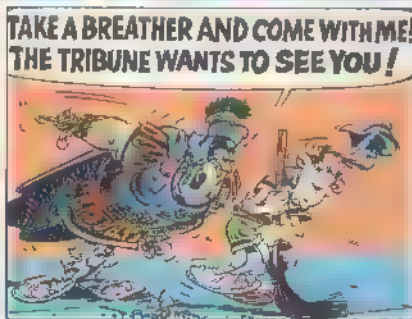
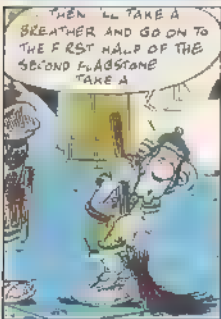
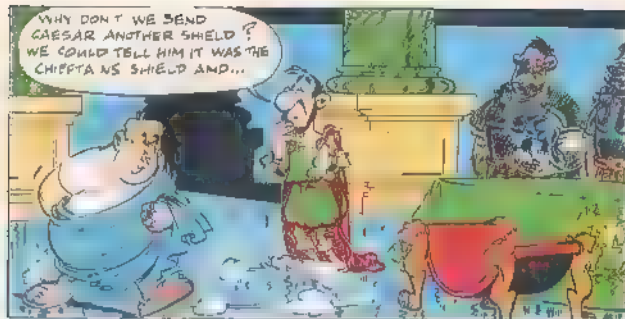


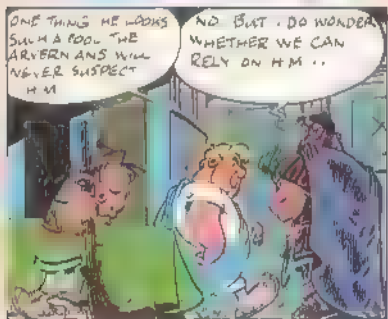
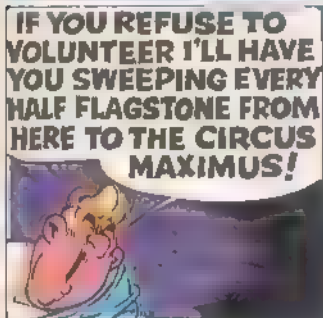
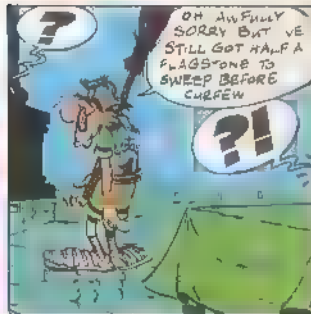
A LOT OF ALES-ANS CAME TO LIVE IN GERGOVIA AFTER THEIR DEFEAT. THAT GIVES US A GOOD OPENING SEARCH EVERY HOUSE! AND GET MOVING, BY JUPITER!

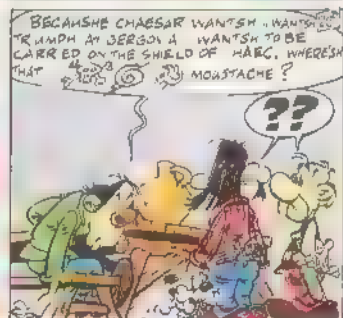
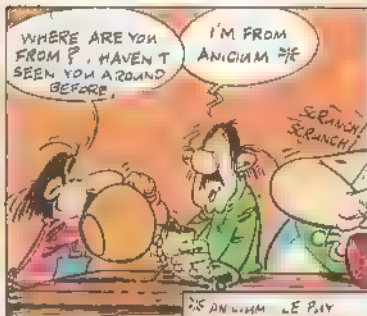
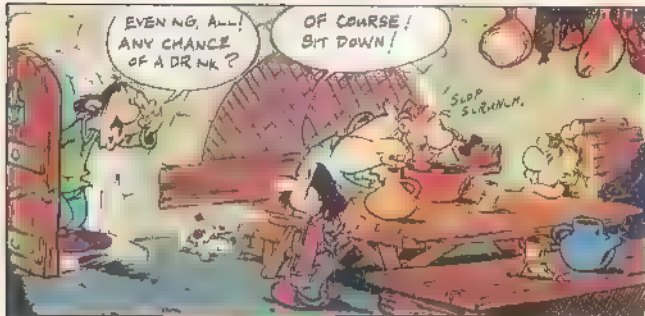


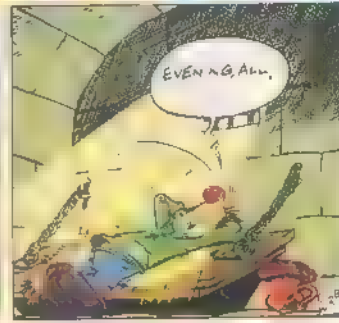
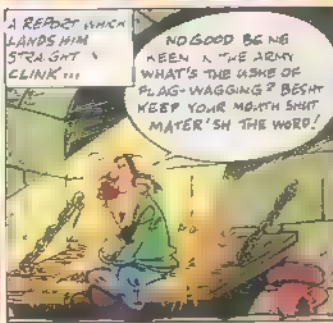
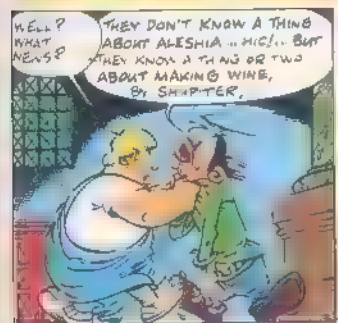
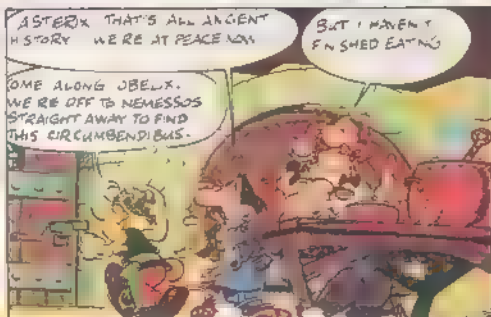
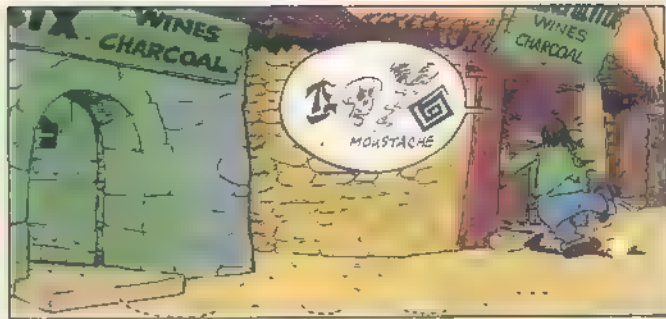
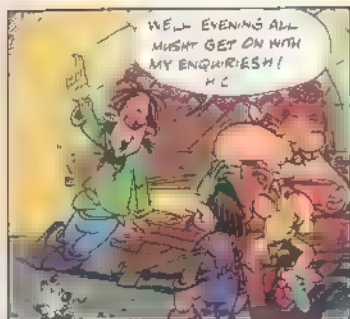












MEANWHILE OUR FRIENDS
HAVE ARRIVED AT THE
LARGE ARVERNIAN TOWN
OF NEMESSOS* ...



BUT HOW DO WE GET
ABOUT FINDING
CIRCUMBENDIBUS,
ASTERX?

HE MAKES WHEELS
IT SHOULD BE EASY TO
SPOT A WHEEL
FACTORY ...

THERE LOOK! THE
OTHER SIDE OF THAT
SQUARE WITH THE
STATUE OF JULIUS
CAESAR!



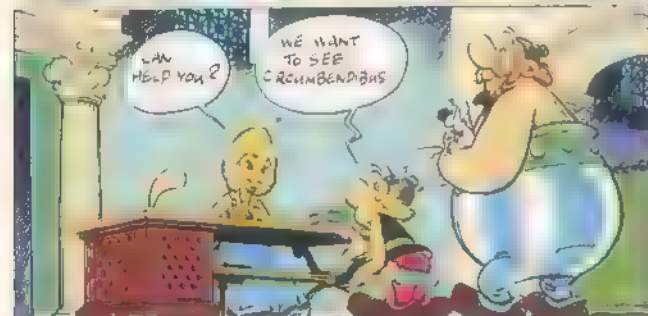
COME ALONG!



CIRCUMBENDIBUS WHEELS

CAN
HELP YOU?

WE WANT
TO SEE
CIRCUMBENDIBUS



THE BOSS?
WHAT ABOUT?

IT'S LIKE THIS:
WE'RE LOOKING
FOR THE SH



PRIVATE
BUSINESS
OUR NAMES ARE
ASTERX AND
OBELX

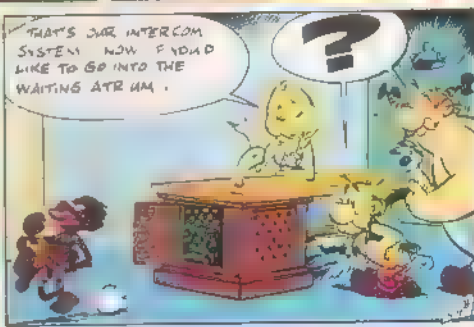
AND
DOGMATIX

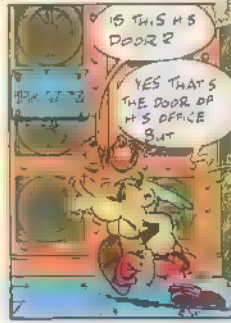
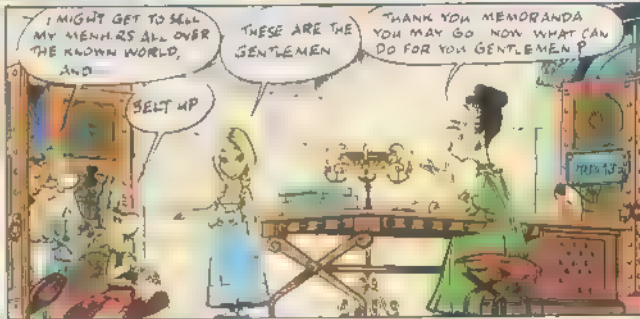
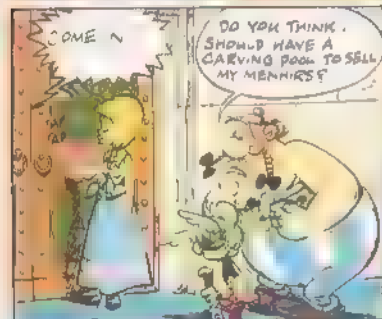
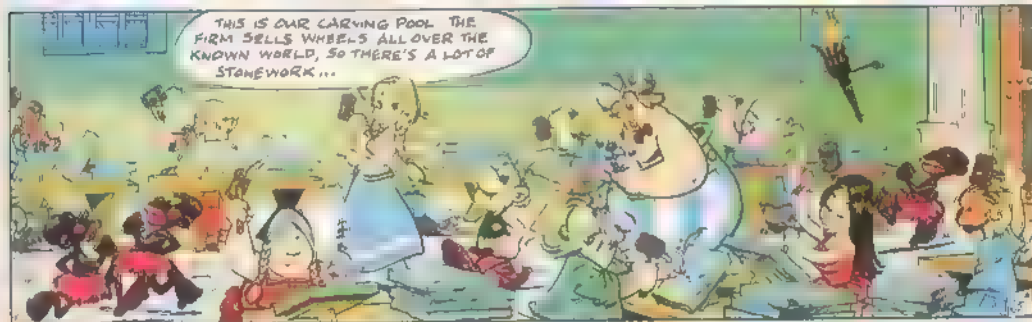
ASTERX AND OBELX WOULD
LIKE TO SEE THE BOSS ON
PRIVATE BUSINESS

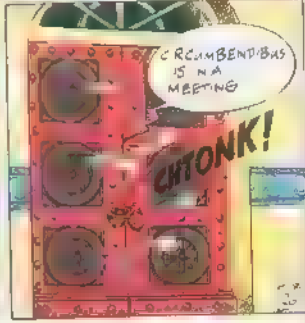
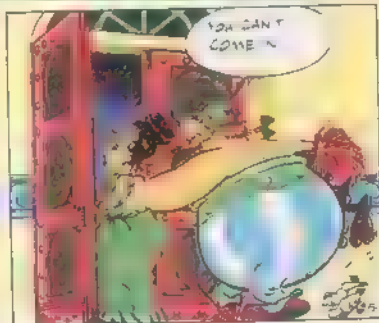
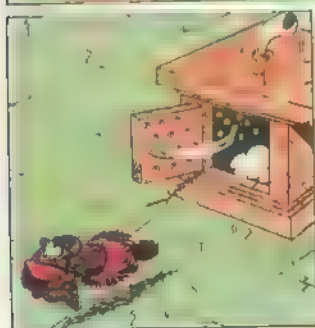
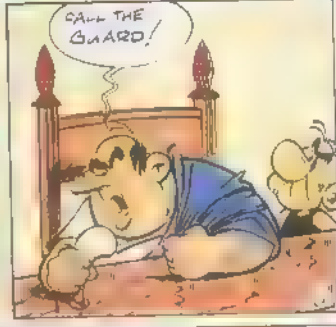
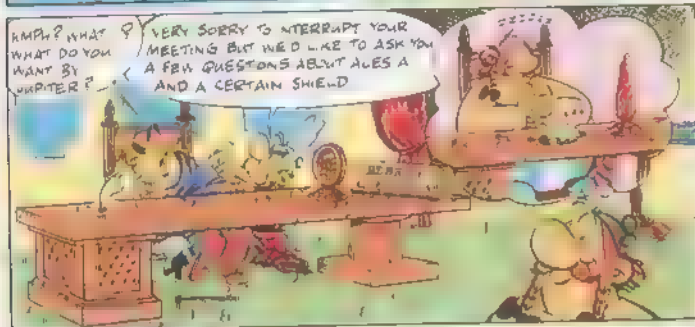
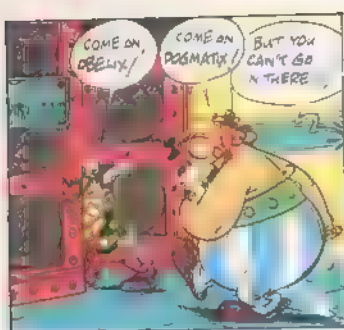


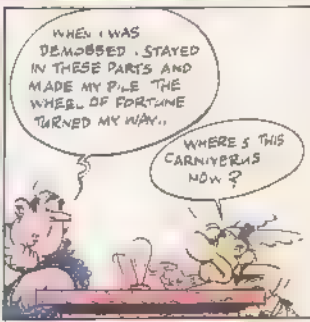
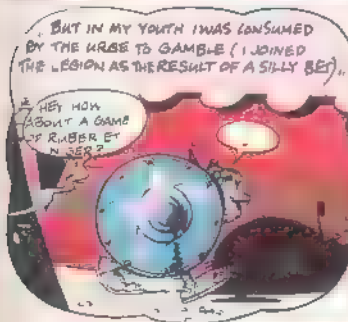
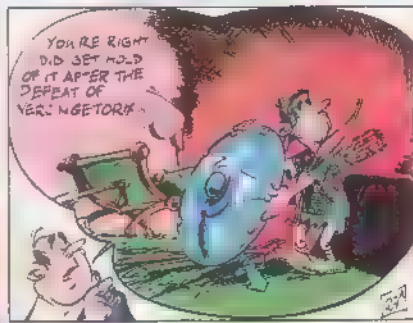
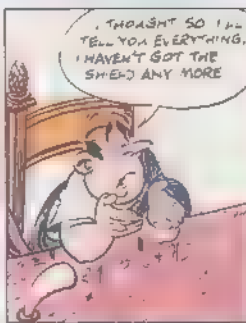
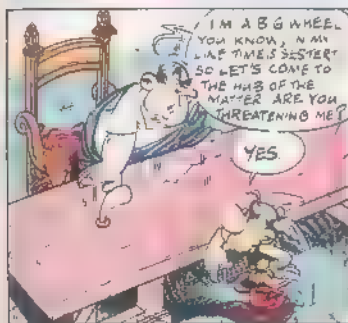
THAT'S OUR INTERCOM
SYSTEM! NOW YOU'D
LIKE TO GO INTO THE
WAITING AREA ...

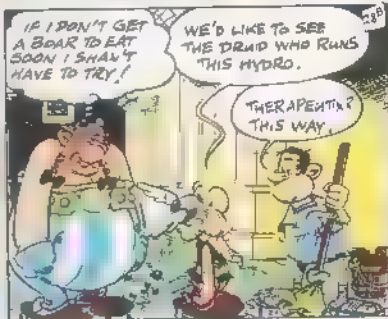
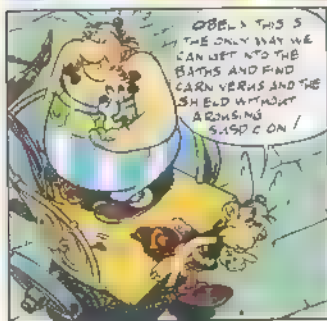
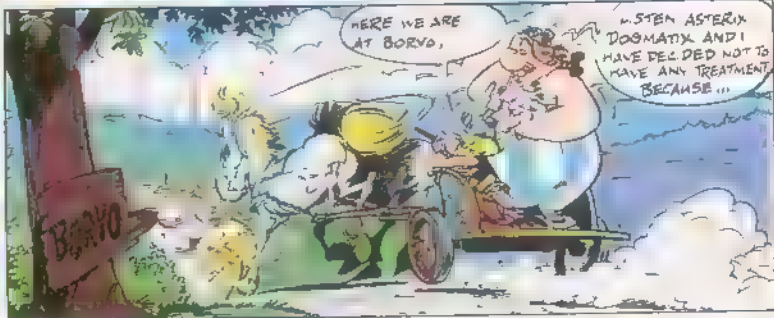
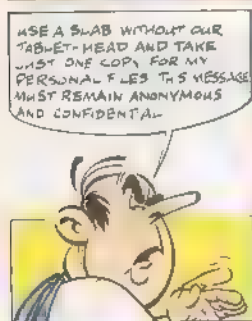
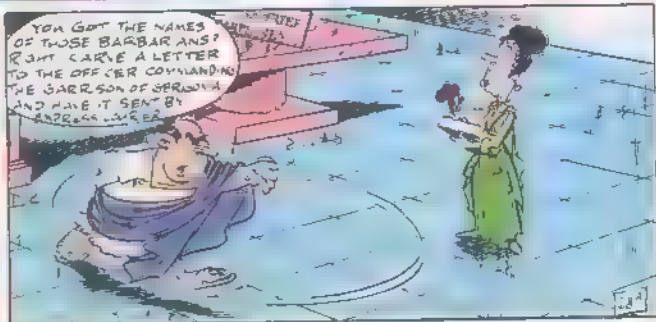
?

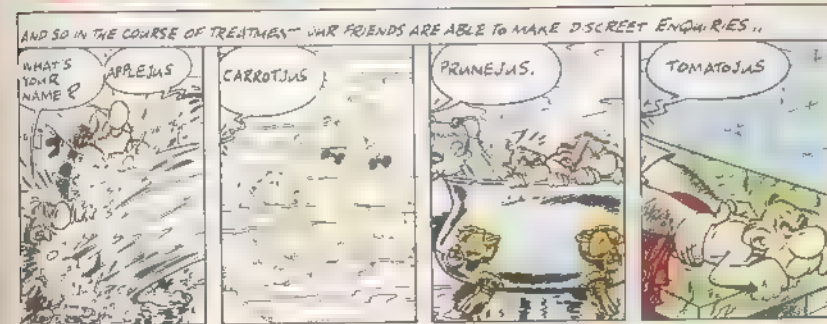
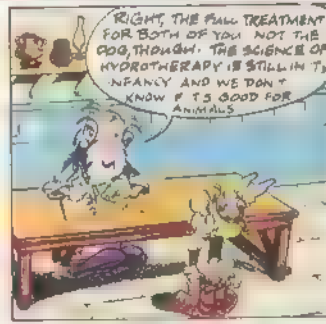
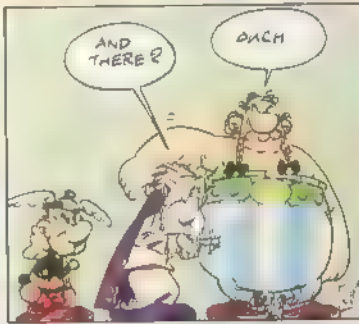


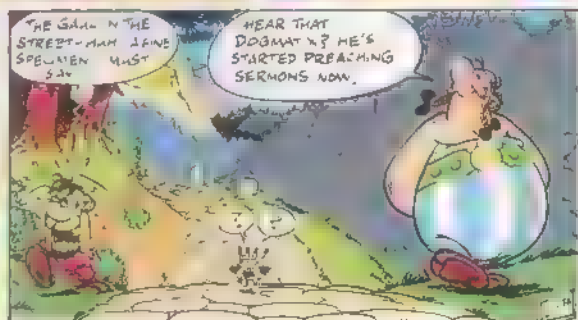
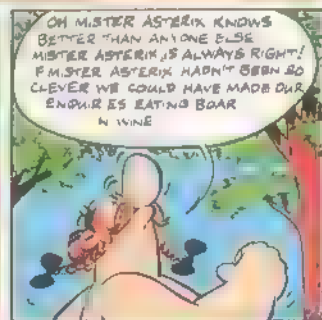
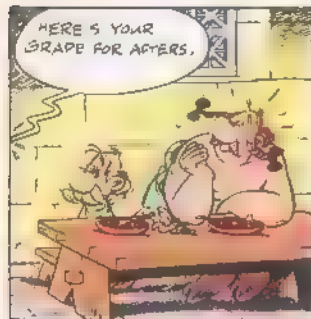


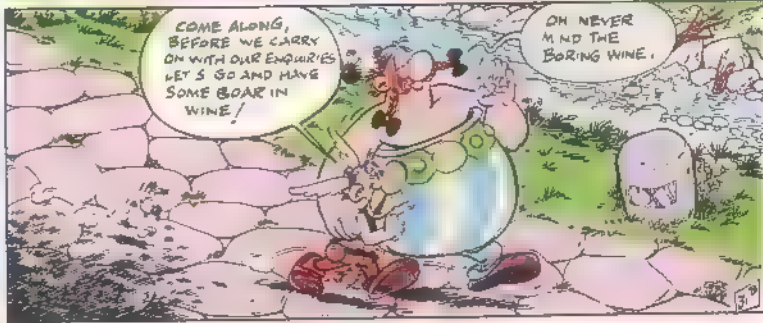
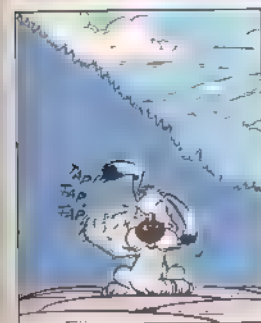
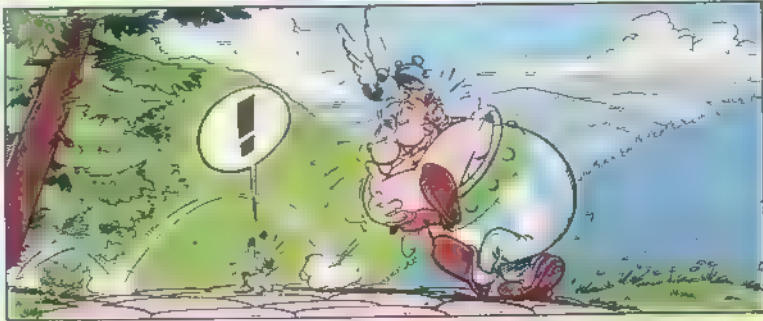
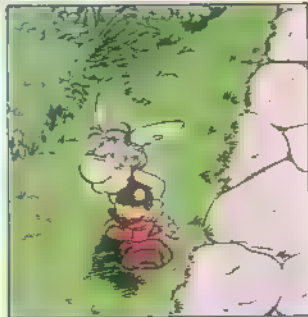
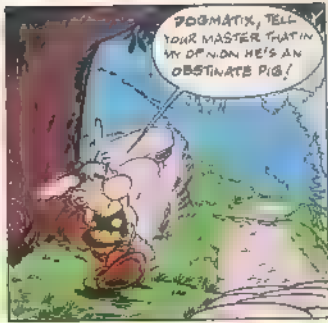
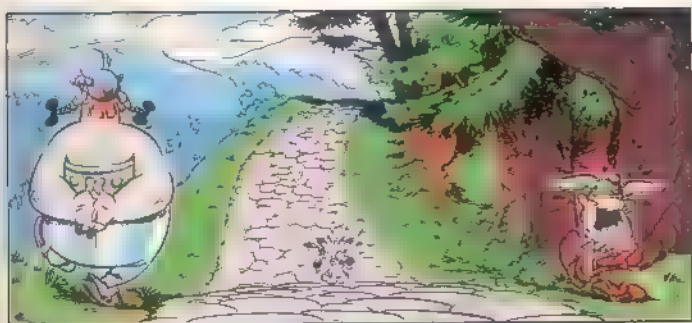


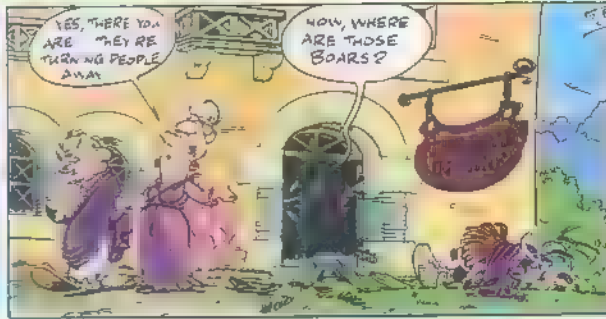
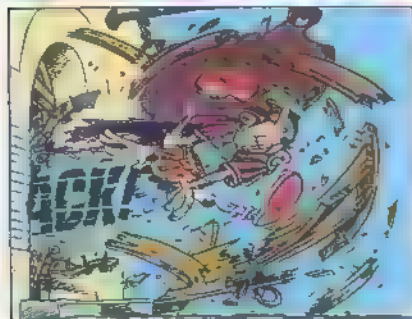
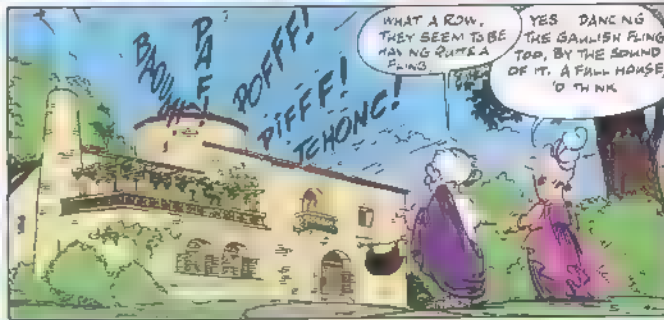
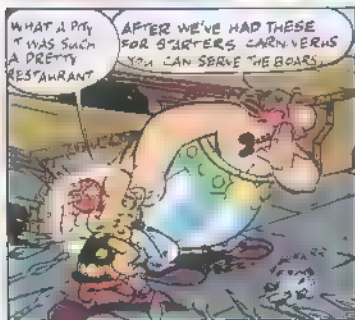
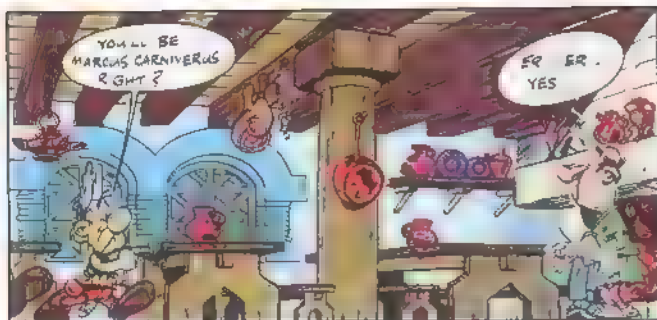


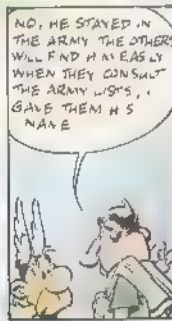
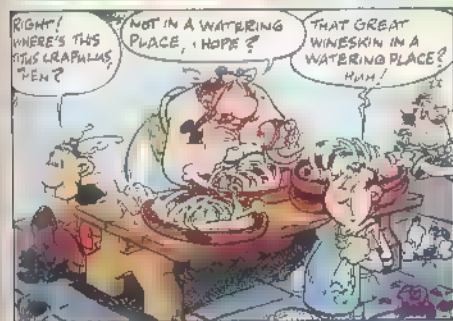
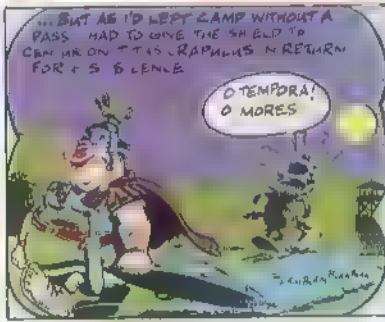
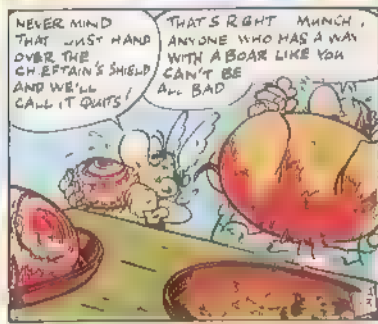
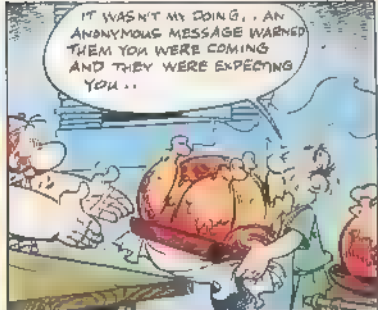












LATER, AFTER
BORROWING A ROMAN
CHARIOT WHICH WAS
JUST PASS US



WE MUST GET TO GERGONA
BEFORE CRAPULUS, TO STOP
HIM GIVING THE SHIELD TO
THE ROMANS.

IF HE GETS THERE FIRST WE'VE
HAD IT. WE CAN'T FIGHT THE
WHOLE GARRISON!



WHY NOT? IS IT
OUT OF BOUNDS?

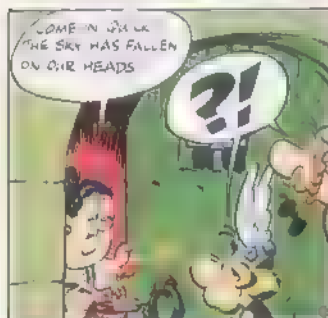
LATE THAT
NIGHT



WHO...
WHO'S THERE?

IT'S US!
OBELIX...

AND DARMATA



COME IN JULK
THE SKY HAS FALLEN
ON OUR HEADS

?!



AND THERE'S A PRICE
ON YOURS, BY THE WAY.
THE ROMANS HAVE GONE
CRAZY! THEY'RE SEARCHING
EVERYWHERE, AND THE
WORST OF IT...



MY WINESANSPIRIS
HAS DISAPPEARED
NOW US VAPUS MUST HAVE
TAKEN HIM PRISONER
BOOHOOOO!



NEVER MIND THE
SHIELD! WE'LL
FIND YOUR
WINESANSPIRIS
BY 'TUTATS

YOU CAN BE BOUND
WE WILL, EVEN IF
THE GARRISON IS
OUT OF BOUNDS
BY BELENDOS

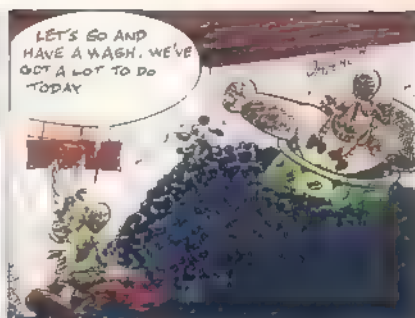
KNEE!

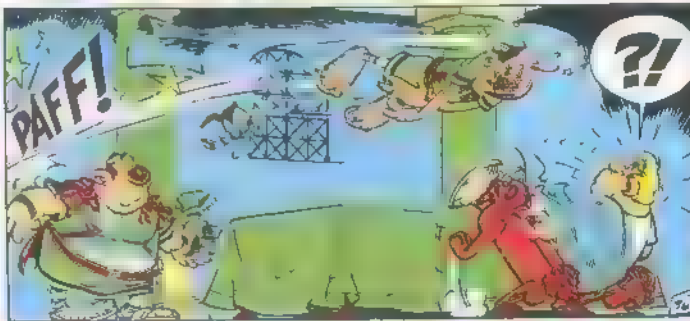
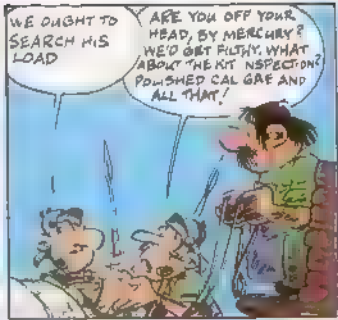


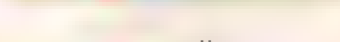
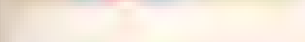
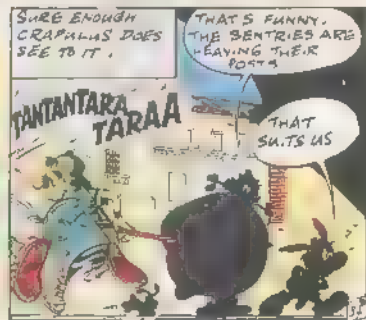
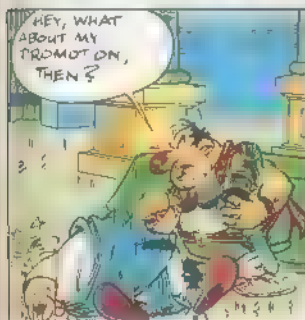
AND SO THE OUTLAWED ASTERIX, OBELIX
AND DARMATA, SPEND THE NIGHT
HIDDEN IN A HEAP OF CHARCOAL

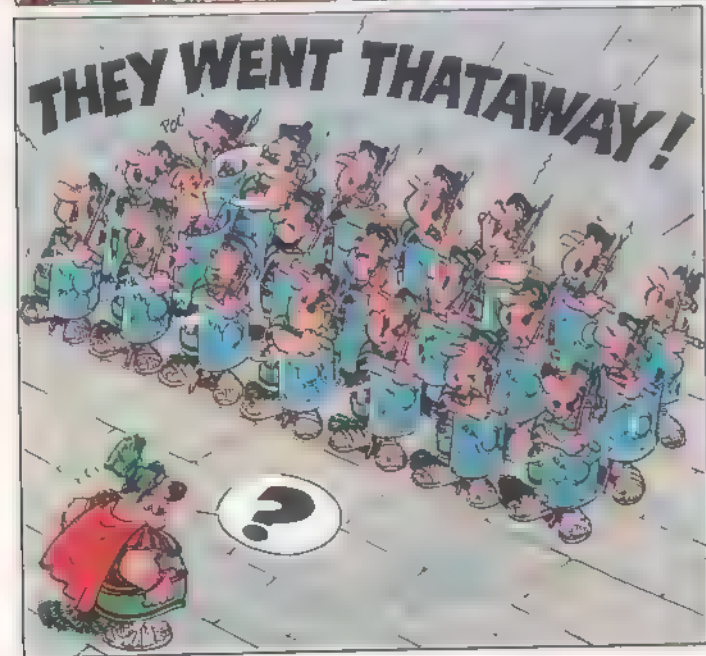
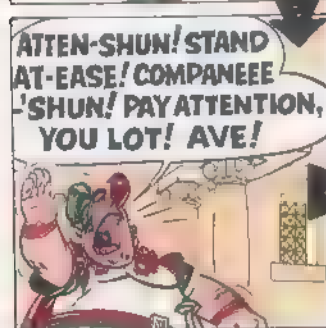
GOOD
NIGHT
OBELIX.

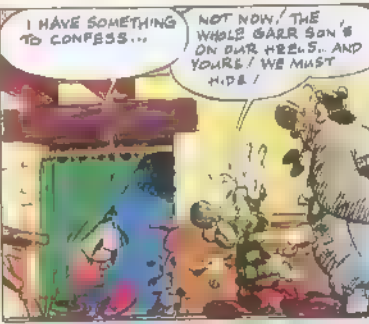
SORRY! LOST MY
TEMPER EARLIER
YOU'RE A WHITE
MAN, ASTERIX!

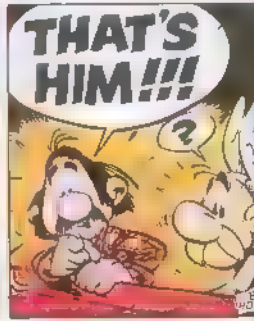
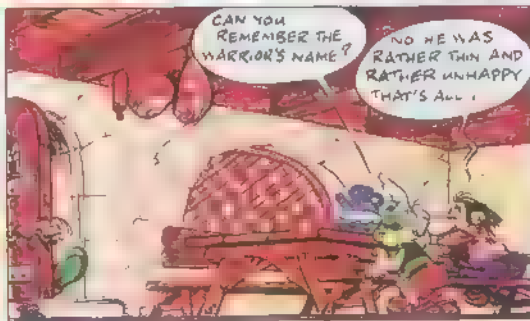
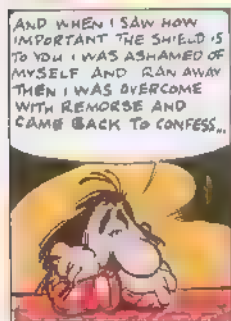
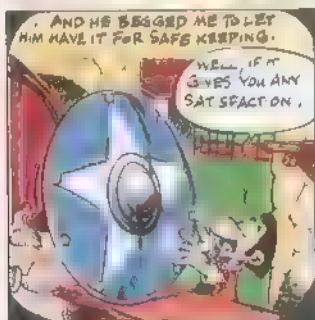
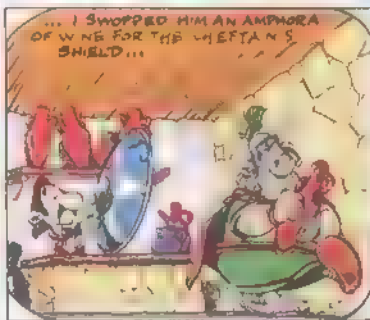
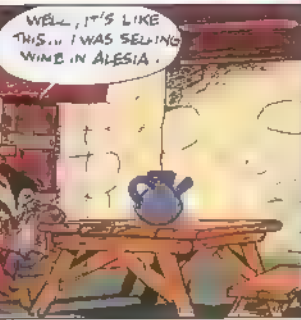
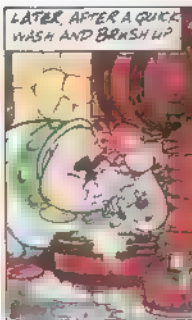












O CHIEF VITALSTATISTIX !



HALLO, BOYS.
THEY SAID I'D FIND YOU
HERE. I'VE FINISHED MY
TREATMENT. I'M WELL
AND TRULY CURED.

THAT'S HIM! THAT'S HIM!
THAT'S THE WARRIOR I
GAVE THE SHIELD TO!



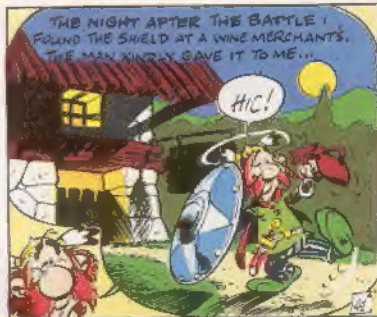
I RECOGNISED HIM
STRAIGHT AWAY! HE
HASN'T PUT ON MUCH
WEIGHT SINCE I LAST
SAW HIM!

IS... IS HE
OFTEN LIKE
THIS?



DON'T YOU REMEMBER?
ALESIA? THE
CHIEFTAIN'S SHIELD?

ALESIA? THE CHIEFTAIN'S
SH... WHY, OF COURSE!



THE NIGHT AFTER THE BATTLE I
FOUND THE SHIELD AT A WINE MERCHANT'S.
THE MAN KINDLY GAVE IT TO ME...

HIC!

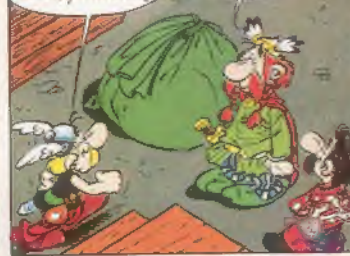
AND
THAT WINE
MERCHANT
WAS
YOU?

IT WAS
ME!



AND HAVE YOU
STILL GOT THE
SHIELD, O CHIEF?

OF COURSE!



I NEVER MOVE
WITHOUT IT. IN FACT,
I USUALLY MOVE
ON IT!

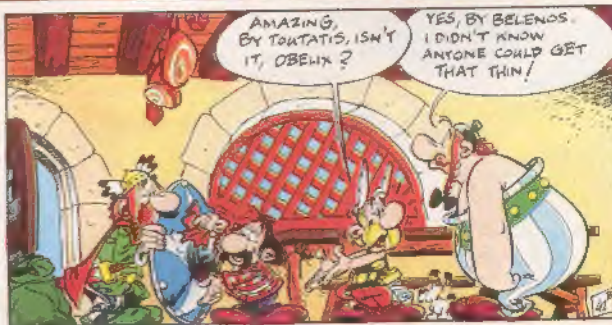
THE ROMANS ARE
LOOKING FOR IT
EVERYWHERE!

THAT EXPLAINS WHY
I SAW SO MANY ROMANS
ON MY WAY HERE... BUT
WHY ARE THEY ALL
BLACK?



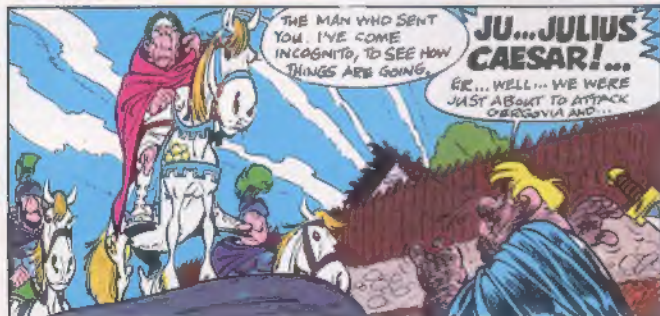
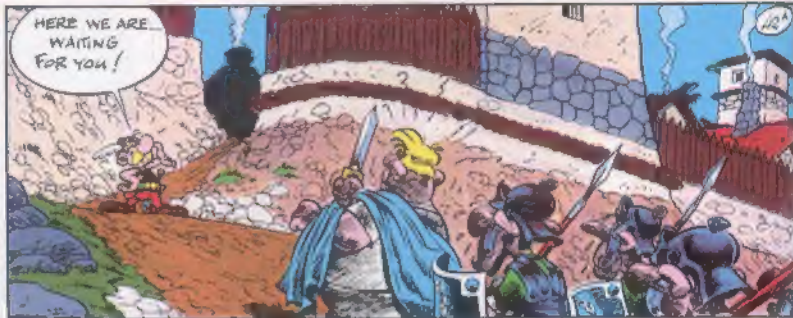
AMAZING,
BY TOUTATIS, ISN'T
IT, OBELEX?

YES, BY BELENOS.
I DIDN'T KNOW
ANYONE COULD GET
THAT THIN!





MEANWHILE, AFTER SEVERAL FRUITLESS SEARCHES...

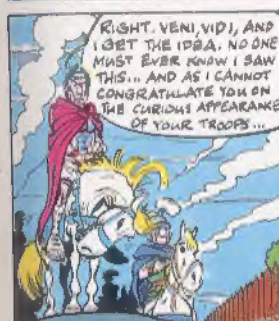


O ROMANS!

WHAT'S UP?

OH, NOTHING...
DON'T TAKE ANY
NOTICE...

**TAKE A GOOD
LOOK! AND YOU,
BRAVE PEOPLE OF
GERGOVIA, COME AND
WATCH OUR TRIUMPH!**



RIGHT, VENI, VIDI, AND
I GET THE IDEA, NO ONE
MUST EVER KNOW I SAW
THIS... AND AS I CANNOT
CONGRATULATE YOU ON
THE CURIOUS APPEARANCE
OF YOUR TROOPS...

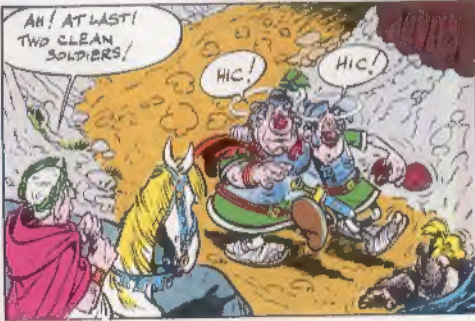
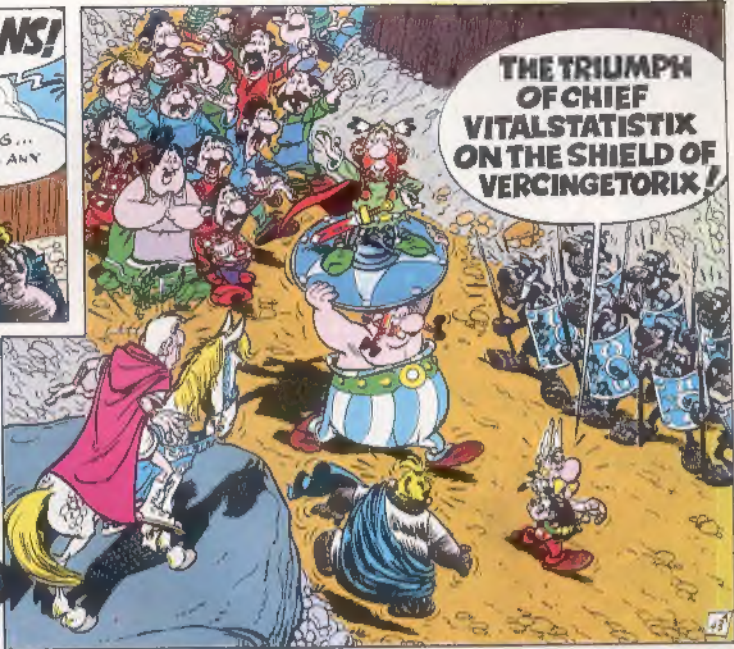


... AND SO AS TO MAKE SURE
MY VISIT REMAINS A SECRET,
I'M SENDING YOU AND YOUR
MEN TO A GARRISON IN NUMIDIA...



CENTURION! I PROMOTE YOU
TO OFFICER COMMANDING
THE GARRISON OF GERGOVIA!
LEGIONARY! I PROMOTE YOU TO
CENTURION! AND I NEVER WANT TO
HEAR THE NAME OF THIS TOWN
AGAIN! AVE!

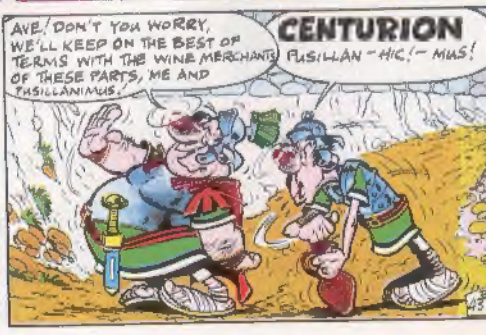
**THE TRIUMPH
OF CHIEF
VITALSTATISTIX
ON THE SHIELD OF
VERCINGETORIX!**



AH! AT LAST!
TWO CLEAN
SOLDIERS!

HIC!

HIC!



AVE, DON'T YOU WORRY,
WE'LL KEEP ON THE BEST OF
TERMS WITH THE WINE MERCHANTS
OF THESE PARTS, ME AND
TUSILLANIMUS.

CENTURION
FUSILLAN - HIC! - MUS!

OUR FRIENDS ARE QUITE SORRY
TO LEAVE GERDOVIA AFTER THEIR
MEMORABLE TRIUMPH...



ON THE WAY HOME THE CHIEF'S STATISTICS
REVITALIZED AS HE VISITS ALL THE INNS
PATRONIZED ON THE OUTWARD JOURNEY.



AND ONCE AGAIN OUR STORY
ENDS WITH A BANQUET...
EVERYONE IS THERE. EVERYONE?
NO, SOMEONE IS MISSING...
WHO CAN IT BE?



NOT HIM; HE'S THERE ALL
RIGHT. SO WHO CAN IT BE, THEN?



...WHO?



HERBERT
GOSCHNY

THE
END